

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The Office Action of May 28, 2004 has been carefully reviewed and this response addresses the Examiner's concerns stated in the Office Action.

Claims 1-14 are now pending. The Examiner has acknowledged that claims 1-7 are allowable. Claims 8-14 have been amended for clarity. Claim 15 has been cancelled without prejudice.

Drawings

Figures 14-17 have been objected to under 35 U.S.C. 132 because they introduce new matter into the drawings. Figures 14, 15, 16 and 17 have been cancelled without prejudice. Figures 18-20 have been renumbered for sequential consistency. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of this objection.

Specification

Applicants have correspondingly amended the specification to remove Figures 14-17 and any reference to the contact plate comprising a single pin. Applicants respectfully refer the Examiner to the "Amendments to the Specification" section contained herein for the details of such amendments.

It is noted that in the previous specification amendment, there were mistakenly two different replacement paragraphs stated for the third paragraph on page 15. The first replacement paragraph was to be in place of the third paragraph and the second replacement paragraph was to be in place of the fourth paragraph on page 15. Since the examiner did not mention this discrepancy, it is assumed that the amendments were properly entered. In the present amendment,

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previously amended paragraph 3 has been restated for clarity and paragraph 4 has been further amended consistent with the removal of new matter per Examiner's requirement.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC 112

The Office Action rejects claim 15 under 35 U.S.C. 112, 1st paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. Claim 15 has been cancelled without prejudice. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection.

The Office Action rejects to claims 8-14 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which the applicant regards as the invention. The preamble of claims 8-14 has been changed to provide clarification that the claims are dependent claims.

In response to the Examiner's statement of a "double inclusion of an elongated upper and lower rail bodies," the claims have been further amended to avoid confusion. For further clarification, the Examiner is directed to Figure 1, where the two seat rail means 1 and 10 are shown which together form a seat rail system for supporting the seat. Thus, there is no indefiniteness in claims 8-14 and Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection.

Conclusion

Consequently, since the now presented amendments to claims 8-14, without the addition of new matter or necessitating a new search, overcomes the 35 U.S.C. 112 rejections, this amendment should be

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entered because it places the present application in condition for immediate allowance, or, in the alternative, in better form for appeal.

In conclusion, in view of the above amendments to claims 8-14 and remarks, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner remove the rejections of claims 8-14 and find claims 8-14 allowable. The Examiner has already acknowledged that claims 1-7 are allowable subject matter.

Applicants further respectfully request that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

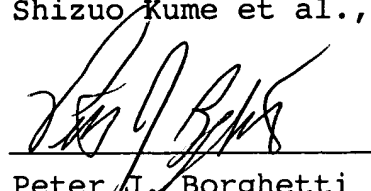
Since no additional claims have been added beyond the claims originally paid for, no fees are required. However, the Commissioner is authorized to charge additional fees or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 03-2410, order 10972 P07, if necessary.

In accordance with Section 714.01 of the M.P.E.P., the following information is presented in the event that a call may be deemed desirable by the Examiner: Peter Borghetti (617) 854-4000

Dated: August 27, 2004

Respectfully submitted,
Shizuo Kume et al., Applicants

By:


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Attachments



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Annotated Marked Up Drawing of Previous Figure 20

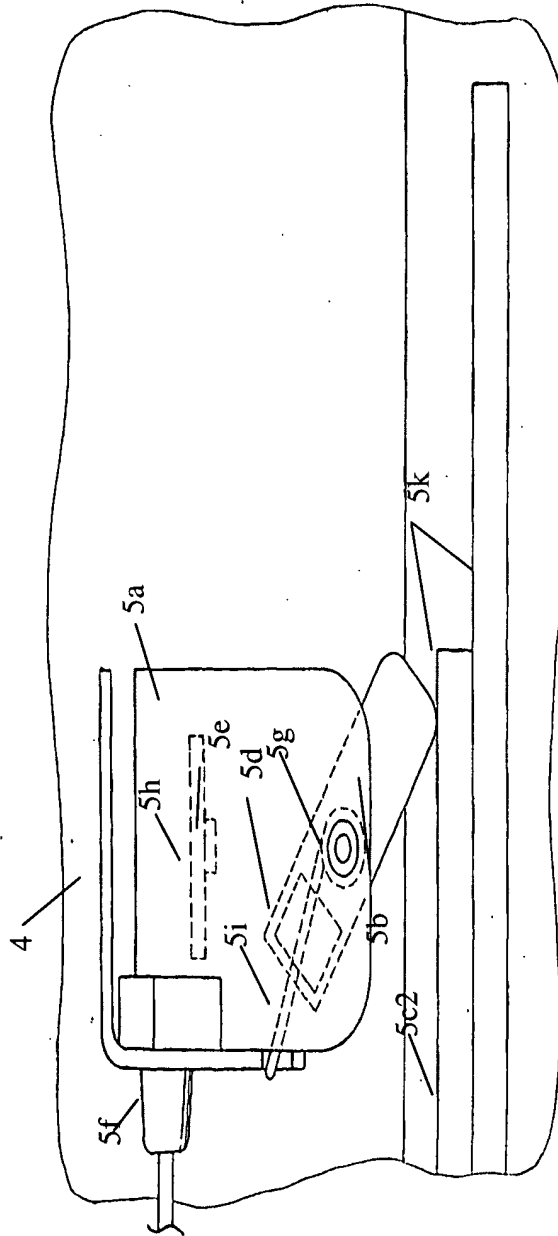


FIG. 20 - CHANGED TO 16



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Annotated Marked Up Drawing of Previous Figure 19

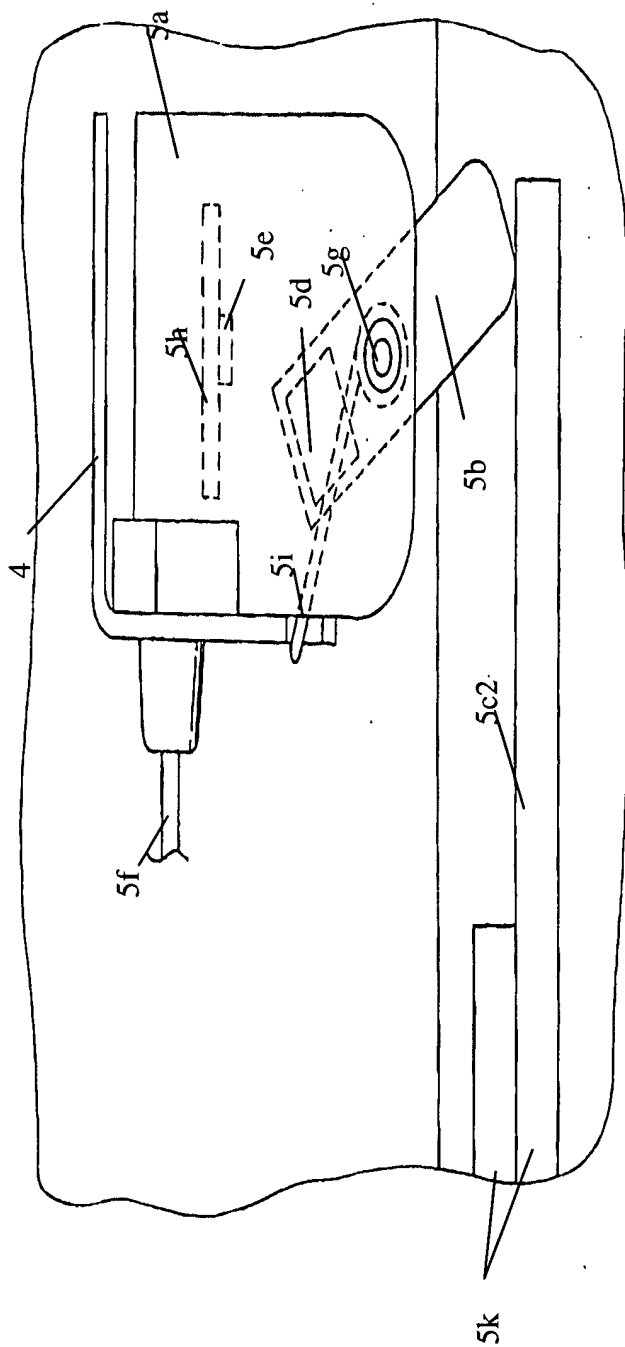


FIG. 19 CHANGE TO 15



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Annotated Marked Up Drawing of Previous Figure 18

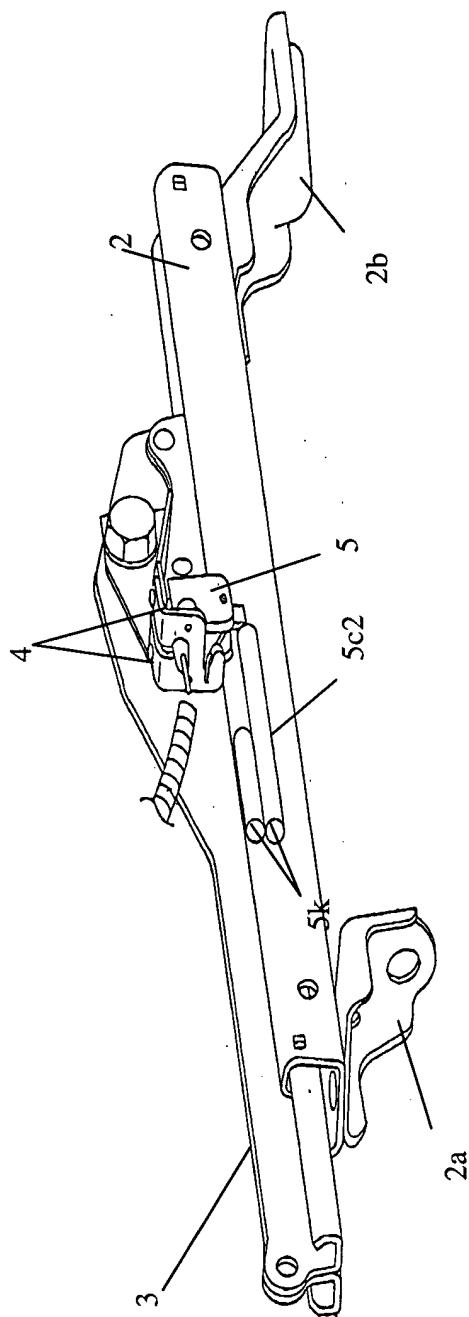


FIG. 18 - CHANGED TO 14

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Amendments to the Drawings:

The attached 6 sheets of drawings include changes to Fig. 18, Fig. 19, and Fig. 20, namely renumbering to Fig. 14, 15 and 16 respectively.

The following figures added in Applicant's response mailed March 1, 2004 are hereby cancelled: Fig. 14 (new sheet 12), Fig. 15 (new sheet 13), Fig. 16 (new sheet 14), and Fig. 17 (new sheet 15).

The attached new replacement sheet 12 includes changes to former Fig. 18, namely renumbering the figure to "Fig. 14" for sequential consistency. This sheet replaces the previously added sheet 12.

The attached new replacement sheet 13 includes changes to former Fig. 19, namely renumbering the figure to "Fig. 15" for sequential consistency. This sheet replaces the previously added sheet 13.

The attached new replacement sheet 14 includes changes to former Fig. 20, namely renumbering the figure to "Fig. 16" for sequential consistency. This sheet replaces previously added sheet 14.

Attachment: New Replacement Sheets 12-14
 Annotated New Sheets 12-14, including previously
 numbered Figs. 18, 19 and 20 Showing Changes